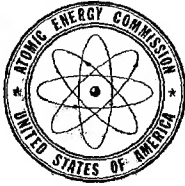


63-62431



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

AUG 12 1963

Dear Senator Morse:

The following is in reply to your letter of August 2, 1963, concerning the United States making available to another country the information needed to perfect nuclear weapons.

The Atomic Energy Act requires that before information concerning the designs of atomic weapons can be transmitted to another country under Section 144c., or parts of atomic weapons transmitted under Section 91c., the receiving nation shall have made "substantial progress in the development of atomic weapons," as well as have met the other requirements of the Act.

The question of what constitutes "substantial progress in the development of atomic weapons" was discussed by the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in Report No. 1849 to accompany H. R. 12716. The enclosure to this letter contains an excerpt from that report discussing the intended meaning of the above phrase.

In view of the intelligence nature of your questions concerning the nuclear capabilities of other countries and the relations of the Soviet Union with Soviet Bloc countries, we have referred the last two questions of your letter to the Director, Central Intelligence Agency for direct response to you so that you might have the best possible estimate.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gerald S. Tape

Chairman

Honorable Wayne Morse
United States Senate

Enclosure:
Criteria

bcc: Honorable John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence Agency